

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS APRIL 4, 2016

The meeting of the County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois was called to order at 8:00 a.m. Chairman Terry Liefer, Commissioner Delbert Wittenauer, and Commissioner Robert Elmore were present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others present included Sheila Wetzler, County Clerk Dennis Knobloch, along with Press Corps representatives – Joe Leicht of the Monroe County Independent and Alan Dooley of the Republic Times.

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Liefer.

Chairman Liefer called for public comments. A group of people was in attendance to speak with the Board regarding the appointment of a Committee to review the Monroe County Ambulance Service, and the pending proposal from the Red Bud Hospital group for a possible takeover of the Ambulance Service. Jason Nonn served as the designated spokesperson for the group. He asked why the Ambulance Service was not notified about the appointment of this Ambulance Committee. Chairman Liefer said this has been discussed since last May, and just recently he was contacted by the Red Bud medical group regarding a proposal. He said this is not different than any other item that comes before the Board – it was included as a part of the agenda for today's meeting. Mr. Nonn said he felt the Ambulance Service should have been formally notified. He said he would like to make a formal request to the Board that anytime anything related to the Ambulance Service is being discussed, notification is given to the Ambulance Director and Supervisors. Chairman Liefer said he felt that was a reasonable request. Chairman Liefer asked Mr. Nonn if he would be willing to provide an unbiased opinion when he sits in on meetings of the Ambulance Committee. Mr. Nonn said that would not be a problem.

Mr. Nonn said the answer was already given as to why the Committee was being formed. He asked if we know at this time who is on this committee. Chairman Liefer said the members would be appointed to the Ambulance Committee later in the meeting. Mr. Nonn said he was also concerned that the members of the committee would provide unbiased opinions.

Chairman Liefer said after talking to these people, he felt the Committee members would be unbiased.

Mr. Nonn said he was also of the understanding – they are being told – that the Ambulance Service is currently running in the black, and he questioned why the County Board was even considering outsourcing the Ambulance Service – if the service is operating in the black, why even consider going to an outside company. Chairman Liefer said that the only reason the Ambulance Service is running in the black is because there is about \$500,000 in taxpayer subsidy going to the service – that amount split between the County and the City of Columbia. He said it is the goal of the County to maintain a quality service, and if that can be done at a lower cost to the taxpayers, that is the direction the County Board will go. Mr. Nonn also said the he wanted it noted, that all those in attendance today are off duty.

Commissioner Wittenauer asked what the Committee will consider – are they only looking at the proposal from CHS, or will they also be looking at what improvements can be made within the Service. Chairman Liefer said it is his intent to see both directions explored. Commissioner

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Wittenauer said another of his concerns is that the taxpayers approved a tax years ago, and he questioned whether those same tax funds could be paid over to a private service as incentives for operating the service. He also questioned whether the assets of the Service could be conveyed to a private firm. Commissioner Wittenauer said he felt the voters should have the final say in making such a change since they originally approved establishing the Service. He said he didn't know if it was proper to take tax dollars and hand them over to a private enterprise for providing the necessary services. Commissioner Elmore said he was concerned for the Ambulance personnel – what happens if somebody else takes over the Service – what happens to the IMRF pensions, etc.? He said he was very concerned for the future of the Ambulance personnel. Chairman Liefer said he was also concerned about how the personnel would be treated if the Service is taken over by another entity.

Adam Kaufman said he is a Monroe County resident and former member of the Monroe County Ambulance Service and is now a firefighter/paramedic in St. Louis County. He said he would be willing to serve on this Committee if asked. Mr. Kaufman said there are people on the County service who are his friends, and there are people who he cannot stand, so he felt he would have no problem providing an unbiased opinion.

Chairman Liefer announced the following as individuals to be appointed to the Ambulance Service Review Committee – Gene Henckler, Jim Maurer, Mark Yaeger, Joe Gregson, Dwight Boehm and Glen Mueller. Chairman Liefer said he would also be appointing a member from Valmeyer, but was still waiting for confirmation from a person there. Commissioner Wittenauer said he would like to see Kris Reitz or some attorney involved to make sure the Committee knows what legalities need to be addressed when reviewing the proposal from the Red Bud group. Chairman Liefer said he would tell Kris Reitz to be in attendance. Commissioner Wittenauer said he would like Kris Reitz to review the proposal before the Committee is presented with the information. Chairman Liefer said he didn't think there is a definite proposal to be reviewed – the Red Bud group just wants to talk in general terms about the prospect of taking over the Ambulance Service.

Commissioner Elmore asked why this group wanted to buy the Ambulance Service. Commissioner Wittenauer said if you were a company that owned hospitals that were failing, it would make sense to want to own an Ambulance Service that could help you out. Chairman Liefer said he didn't think CHS was a failing business. Commissioner Wittenauer said no, but they have some failing hospitals.

Adam Tyberendt asked if the Ambulance Committee meetings would be open to the public. Chairman Liefer said all meetings would be open and would be posted as Public Meetings under the appropriate rules. Ryan Weber said if this issue does go further, will you have someone with an EMS background look at the recommendations to make sure there is nothing that will not work for the Ambulance Service.

Chairman Liefer called for a motion on the question. Motion was made by Commissioner Elmore, with a second by Chairman Liefer to appoint the list of announced members to the Monroe County Ambulance Service Review Committee. Chairman Liefer and Commissioner Elmore voting Aye, none Nay and Commissioner Wittenauer Abstain. Motion carried. Commissioner Wittenauer said he did not agree with the formation of this Committee, but that he felt comfortable with the members appointed to this Committee.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Wittenauer, with a second by Commissioner Elmore to approve the Regular and Closed Session minutes from the meeting on March 21.

Commissioner Elmore asked about the arrangements to have the County enter into membership with the Waterloo and Columbia Chambers of Commerce. Chairman Liefer said he would ask Sheila to check into this.

The following Accounts Payable having been approved for payment, Commissioner Wittenauer moved that the same be allowed and that vouchers be issued against their respective funds of the County Treasurer for payment. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wittenauer, and so declared all voting Aye, none Nay, and none Absent. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND

1 st National Bank of Waterloo	3,388.27
Americom Imaging Systems, Inc.	119.00
Americom	700.00
Beneflex	980.00
Byers Printing Co.	188.92
Charter Communications	54.13
Coast to Coast	351.53
Culligan-Schaefer Water Centers	.97
Dan Row	60.00
Davey Tree Expert Company	1,000.00
Dobbs Tire & Auto Centers	43.91
Ed Roehr Auto Radio Co Inc.	80.00
Egyptian Stationers Inc.	329.90
Gall's Inc.	49.90
GreatAmerica Financial Services	152.49
Harrisonville Telephone Company	3,439.29
I D Networks	2,499.00
Illinois Assoc. of County Clerks & Recorders	20.00
IL Dept of Central Mgmt Services	498.55
Judy L. Tiemann	5.50
Leaf	227.30
Leon Uniform Company Inc.	978.91
Linnemann Lawn Care & Landscaping	375.00
Locks A2Z	268.40
Monroe County Independent	360.75
Nabers Shop	75.00
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.	91.04
Primary Election Expenses	47,784.42
Pts of America LLC	613.80
Quality Collision, Inc.	240.87
Quill Corporation	439.66
Rejis Commission	164.00
Reliable Sanitation Service Inc.	3,085.80
Ronald M Mueller	266.05

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Ruth's Deli & Catering	6,122.53
Sidebarr Technologies	198.00
Toshiba Financial Services	246.00
Traugher & Morris Ltd.	741.67
U-Haul	575.66
Walmart Community	88.24
Waterloo Animal Hospital	445.00
Waterloo Lumber Company Inc.	23.96
Watson's Office City	192.86
Wayne's One Stop	145.40
Wightman Pharmacy	1,125.07
Wireless USA	867.00

HEALTH TAX FUND

1 st National Bank of Waterloo	695.31
Coast to Coast Equipment	162.00
Culligan-Schaefer Water Centers	67.14
Motorola	34.00
Sanofi Pasteur Inc.	2,912.57

AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND

1 st National Bank of Waterloo	50.39
Airgas Mid America	146.02
Bound Tree Medical LLC	402.88
Fact Canada Consulting	210.75
G E Capital	115.99
Hanft Windshield Repair	250.00
Memorial Hospital	100.00
Phillips 66 Company	182.64
PWW Media, Inc.	355.00
Walmart Community/RFCSLLC	60.12
WEX	1,358.07
Zoll Medical Corporation	401.69

HIGHWAY FUND

Albers Fire Protection Equipment, Inc.	334.25
Aramark Uniform Services	1,811.92
Asphalt Sales And Products Inc.	1,060.26
Carlson Software	1,700.00
Columbia Quarry Company	68.09
Fountain Water District	60.60
Harrisonville Telephone Co.	45.73
John Deere Financial	531.21
Luby Equipment Services	220.00
Nabers Shop	105.62

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Schaeffer Mfg. Co.	997.15
Viking-Cives Midwest Inc.	2,374.53
Wedge Tire	387.90

G.I.S. FUND

The Sidwell Company	2,922.00
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RECORDER'S DOCUMENTS

Fidlar Technologies	500.00
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Dennis Knobloch provided an update to the Bicentennial festivities. There was a full group Committee meeting last week, and plans are progressing for the summer events. He said there is another bus trip – History and Mystery – upcoming on May 14.

There was some discussion regarding the radio tower next to the Sheriff's office. Commissioner Wittenauer said the company with the tower asked several years ago about renewing their contract. He said someone needs to look at the old contract, and get the company to make an offer. Chairman Liefer asked Ryan Weber if he would look into this. Ryan Weber said there is a radio committee meeting coming up, and the committee would review this situation.

Chairman Liefer said following the last meeting there was a review of the work on the County website, and it looks like website work is progressing. He also said that the Treasurer's and County Clerk's office continue to try to work out the bugs with the new Financial Edge accounting system.

Commissioner Elmore will meet with the Economic Development Committee later this week.

Commissioner Wittenauer agreed to look into what should be done with the County's computer systems regarding backup of files and virus prevention.

Chairman Liefer said that the Federal Asset Forfeiture program lost funding last December, but funding has now been restored, so the program is now up and running again.

Chairman Liefer said the information on the Energy Audit for the county has been distributed to (4) four companies. The opening of the proposals will be on April 18 at 3:00 p.m. Motion was made by Commissioner Elmore, with a second by Commissioner Wittenauer to hold a special meeting on April 18 at 3:00 p.m. to open the proposals. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wittenauer said he didn't see anything on the Economic Development timetable about sending out requests for applications for someone to serve as Economic Development Director. Commissioner Elmore said he thought that would be discussed in more detail at the upcoming meeting of the Economic Development Committee on Wednesday evening. Commissioner Elmore said he felt the Committee was going to go the direction of the Jefferson County, Illinois model. Chairman Liefer said there has been quite a bit of interest in private

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investment in the Economic Development effort. Commissioner Wittenauer said the group will be looking for a multi-year investment and commitment from the County. Commissioner Wittenauer said if you're going to have a large amount of private investment, you are going to have to keep the investors happy, or they will not continue with their support of the effort. Chairman Liefer said if a public/private arrangement is started, the County would have to dissolve the current Committee structure.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Elmore, with a second by Commissioner Wittenauer. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.